

PIR-BIS

CHester

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

P. O. Box 2604

Washington, D. C. 20013

MHQ-5112
8 October 1985

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[Redacted]
Jordan Bureau, FBIS

Dear Ali:

Thanks for your letter and it was good hearing from you. I sympathize with your situation but of course there are two things that must be understood at the outset: (1) it is true for everyone, including myself, that the standard of living under retirement cannot be as high as when a person is employed full-time; and (2) because we are a government of laws and regulations, we can only do for you what is possible and legal, regardless of what we might want to do for our old friends and long-time employees.

Having said that, let me point out that under the regulations you can apply a housing allowance to a 10-year amortization of your personally-owned property. Your annual quarters allowance would be based on 1/10 of the purchase price of your property plus utilities, with the total payment annually not exceeding your quarters allowance of \$4,000 a year. (At the present time, of course, all your quarters expenses are reimbursed; that would cease if you applied a quarters allowance to your property costs.) We believe it would be possible to advance you up to one year's advance quarters allowance--that is to say, \$4,000 with the advance being liquidated over the year by your bi-weekly quarters allowance. However, you must own the house before we can begin this quarters allowance or make the one year's advance. I am sure you could work that out with a bank. It is illegal for us to advance money for such allowance payments to you before you have legal possession of the property.

If I can provide you with a letter or paper that might help you in getting assistance from your bank, let me know.

I regret the above is all we can do, for you or any other employee.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
/ Director

cc: Chief, Jordan Bureau, FBIS

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STAT

20 September 1985

Director, FBIS
Thru Chief Ops
Thru Chief, Jordan Bureau

Dear John,

I would like in this petition to set forth my case which, I believe, deserves your kind consideration, because it means helping a devout FBIS employee guarantee a decent retirement for himself and his family. My case is as follows:

If I were to retire today, my annuity would not be enough for my family to maintain the same living standard they are now enjoying. In fact, this standard would drop considerably for the following reasons:

1. I do not own a home.
2. Life is very expensive and rents are high in Amman, where my family is happily settled and feels very much at home.
3. I have four grown up daughters who, unlike in the West, will continue to be my responsibility for as long as they are single.
4. As a Green Card holder, I have loyally consented to pay U.S. income tax with the view to possible emigration to the United States at some future date.

Therefore, I desperately need to own a home before retirement, both as a shelter for my family and as an investment that I can sell and buy elsewhere, say in the United States. I deeply feel that this is the least I must do for my family after all these years of loyal service to FBIS. In fact, what I am asking is that I be treated in the same way as my colleagues in Cyprus who are secured in their own homes with FBIS help.

The only property that I think I still own is a one-bedroom apartment in an unfinished housing project in Kyrenia whose fate is as unknown as that of the Cyprus issue itself. Right now, it is as good as lost for no fault of mine. I also had a small property in Caversham Park Village, but I sold it to pay for my daughters' university education.

Property in Amman is expensive. A decent apartment for a large family as mine costs about JD50,000. Moreover, long-term mortgage facilities are not easily obtainable, and as a foreigner, I have to produce a substantial sum in advance payment before getting a bank loan.

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I do not know what my maximum quarters allowance is, and if an advance can be made against this allowance. But I do know from private investigations that the local Housing Bank will insist on a substantial down payment and a short-term mortgage with embassy guarantee.

This, in short, is my case which I submit here for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Chief Monitor
Jordan Bureau

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